

A SEALABLE FOOD CONTAINER WITH IMPROVED LIDDING AND
STACKING FEATURES

5 Cross-Reference to Related Applications

 This application is a continuation-in-part of United States Patent Application No. 09/921,264, entitled "Disposable Serving Plate With Sidewall-Engaged Sealing Cover", filed August 2, 2001 (~~Attorney Docket No. 2242~~). United States Patent Application No. 09/921,264, was based on Provisional Application No. 60/223,209, filed August 4, 2000 of the same title. This application also incorporates material in United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/305,225, entitled "Crush-Resistant Disposable Lid", filed July 13, 2001 (~~Attorney Docket No. 2366~~). The priorities of the foregoing applications are hereby claimed.

15 Technical Field

 The present invention relates generally to food containers. In a preferred embodiment, there is provided a serving plate with a sidewall-engaged sealing cover so as to provide for storage and transport as well as serving of the contents.

20 Background

 Sealable food containers are known in the art. Illustrative in this respect is United States Patent No. 5,377,860 to *Littlejohn et al.* In the '860 patent there is disclosed a container having a base with an upwardly projecting sidewall integrally formed with a brim. The brim of the base is formed with a number of integral cooperating features including a reinforcing hoop and sealing surfaces. A lid is configured to fit the base and includes a dome as well as a lid brim configured to cooperate with the brim of the base. Thus, in accordance with the '860 patent there is provided a food container with a flexible brim seal between the lid and base which is provided by way of the respective brim designs.